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Location Reconnaissance

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RELEASED UNDER FREEDOM OF INFORMATION - VICTORIA POLICE - MELBOURNE ACTIVIST LEGAL SUPPORT - 80381/22

Enhance Situational Awareness



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- When a protest is known the location should be assessed prior to the protest taking place. Ideally before the day of the protest itself and then on the day
- The purpose of this is to assess risk, provide context for commanders – supports Tactical Plan
- Provide EGT with understanding of environment – leads to better positioning/ identification of threat



Initial Reconnaissance

- Desktop Surveillance (Google Maps)
- Speak to members who have worked there
- Debriefs from previous protests
- Consider how the protestors view the area and what are their intentions
- Consider what factors may impact the protest or site
- Country or city site
- Consider demographic of local population (positive/ negative/ neutral)

What to look for at the site



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- Items that can used as missiles
- Choke points
- Access/Egress
- Alternate routes and assembly points for members
- Locations where protesters may have stored missiles or weapons to avoid OMNI searches
- Mainstream media (on the day)
- Blockages and construction sites at the site
- Transport Hubs
- Vantage Points for EGT
- Spotters (on the day)
- Weather implications
- Safety issues for EGT (What is your exit strategy if needed)
- Laneways (To assist EGT movement and protestor use)
- Take notes and images/ video
- Methodical search

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q04Ubp3zvsQ>

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OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Environment



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Restricted Fields – Urban structures limit arcs of observation

Dead Spaces – Urban terrain creates many dead spaces that cannot be covered

Channelling – Streets can narrow and buildings can impact the movement of protestors

Cover and Concealment – Can assist protestors

Other Considerations



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- Unstated targets – For example students targeting Liberal HQ when stated target is Parliament
- Route of march
- Contact details of security etc.
- Planned Roadworks
- What/Who doesn't look right
- Speak to local traders
- Use of other EGT to cover area's you can't get to
- Building Numbering and Nicknames – allows for easier identification and quicker target identification
- Orient yourself – know your North from your South

Final Point



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Time spent in reconnaissance is never wasted and provides efficiencies when planning an event. It assists having clarity around the location of the event and what tactics can be employed to effectively manage protester groups and their intent.

Federation Square



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Consider what factors have to be taken into account for protests at Fed Square?

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Parliament



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Before and After



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